



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Consolidated Test Site Examiners  
EMT-Instructors  
Regional EMS Councils

**From:** Michael D. Berg; Manager, Regulation and Compliance  
Warren Short; Manager, Education and Training

**SUBJECT:** BLS/AED Practical Evaluation Station

**Date:** October 27, 2006

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On October 11, 2006 the Professional Development Committee of the State EMS Advisory Board voted to temporarily suspend testing of the BLS/AED station as part of the practical evaluation for EMT-B certification for a period up to one year. This action was affirmed by the Medical Direction Committee of the State EMS Advisory Board at their October 12, 2006 meeting.

In 2005, the American Heart Association (AHA) made a number of changes to their standards and guidelines for CPR and AED. The Medical Direction Committee confirmed information received by the Office that several other organizations who teach CPR were going to introduce their own version of CPR standards that in some cases differ from the standards introduced by AHA. These changes have resulted in some confusion leading to questions by EMT-Instructors about what standards should be covered and taught in class as well as what criteria will be used to evaluate students during their BLS/AED practical skill station.

Therefore, the Office of EMS is suspending the practical evaluation/testing of the BLS/AED station for the EMT-B certification effective **NOVEMBER 1, 2006**. There will be no initial testing of the AED/BLS station after November 1, 2006. However, candidates who tested and did not pass the BLS/AED station prior to November 1 will be required to retest the station. It will be necessary to equip and staff the BLS/AED station at test sites after November 1 for several months in order to allow candidates who must retest to complete their practical testing requirements.

Recently the Professional Development Committee formed an ad hoc BLS Test Review sub-committee that will be evaluating all EMT-B practical testing, to include the BLS/AED station. This committee will be making recommendations for any changes to the practical certification examination requirements for EMT-B.